



Summary Analysis of Virginia 2018 and 2017 Benchmark Revisions of Nonagricultural Employment and Unemployment

(Data is Not Seasonally Adjusted.)

—Virginia nonfarm employment gained 44,800 jobs, or 1.1 percent, in 2018—

—All ten of the metropolitan areas added jobs—

—Jobless rate averaged 3.0 percent in 2018, compared to 3.7 percent in 2017—

The annual benchmark revision of employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages raised Virginia's nonfarm employment estimate in 2017 by 0.1 percent and lowered it in 2018 by 0.2 percent; and as a result, nonfarm employment growth was revised downward in 2018 from 1.4 percent to 1.1 percent. For Virginia, the 2017 average nonfarm employment was revised upward by 4,800 jobs to 3,955,800, and the 2018 average nonfarm employment was revised downward by 6,600 jobs to 4,000,600. With these revisions, average nonfarm employment posted a job gain of 41,300, or 1.1 percent, in 2017 and a job gain of 44,800, or 1.1 percent, in 2018. The nation experienced nonfarm employment growth of 1.6 percent in 2017 and 1.7 percent in 2018.

The benchmark revision represents a once-a-year realignment, based on March data, of sample-based employment estimates to universe counts of employment derived primarily from Unemployment Insurance tax records. For Virginia, the March 2018 total nonfarm employment estimate was revised upward by 10,000 jobs, or 0.3 percent, compared to the national March sample-based downward revision of -16,000 jobs, or less than -0.05 percent. In Virginia, six industrial sectors experienced upward revisions to their March 2018 employment level, while the other five experienced downward revisions. The six industrial sectors that experienced upward revisions were: professional and business services (+11,000 jobs); total government (+5,900 jobs); private education and health services (+4,500 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+2,300 jobs); information (+400 jobs); and finance (+100 jobs). The five industrial sectors that experienced downward revisions were: miscellaneous services (-5,300 jobs); construction (-4,300 jobs); trade and transportation (-3,200 jobs); manufacturing (-1,200 jobs); and mining (-200 jobs).



For more information or questions, contact: Conrad Buckler Economist
(804) 786-8264 Conrad.Buckler@vec.virginia.gov

Industry Change

(Totals may not add due to rounding.)

In Virginia, eight of the eleven major industrial sectors added jobs in 2018, while the other three experienced declines.

Virginia's largest absolute job gain in 2018 occurred in **professional and business services**, as employment in this sector continues to trend upward. Employment in this sector was up 18,500 jobs (+2.5 percent) to an average of 748,600 in 2018. In 2018, job gains occurred in all sectors: professional, scientific, and technical services (+10,700 jobs); administrative and support services (+5,600 jobs); and management of companies (+2,100 jobs).

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia*

Industry	2018 Average	2017 Average	Change	
			Number	Percent
Total Nonfarm Jobs	4,000,600	3,955,800	+44,800	+1.1%
Mining	7,900	8,000	-100	-1.3%
Construction	197,400	193,500	+3,900	+2.0%
Manufacturing	240,100	234,900	+5,200	+2.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	659,700	661,500	-1,800	-0.3%
Information	67,200	68,100	-900	-1.3%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	207,400	205,100	+2,300	+1.1%
Professional and Business Services	748,600	730,100	+18,500	+2.5%
Private Education and Health Services	541,100	532,600	+8,500	+1.6%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	407,800	404,500	+3,300	+0.8%
Miscellaneous Services	201,100	200,800	+300	+0.1%
Total Government	722,500	716,700	+5,800	+0.8%
Federal Government	179,300	178,000	+1,300	+0.7%
State Government	160,300	159,400	+900	+0.6%
Local Government	382,900	379,300	+3,600	+0.9%

*Totals may not add due to rounding.

Employment in the **private education and health services sector** continues to trend upward. Employment in this sector was up 8,500 jobs (+1.6 percent) to an average of 541,100 in 2018, after increasing by 6,900 jobs (+1.3 percent) in 2017. In 2018, employment in health care and social assistance was up 6,700 jobs, and employment in private education was up 1,900 jobs.

Total government employment increased by 5,800 jobs (+0.8 percent) to an average of 722,500 in 2018, the fourth consecutive yearly increase. In 2018, job gains occurred in all sectors: local (+3,600 jobs), federal (+1,300 jobs), and state (+900 jobs) government employment.

Manufacturing employment was up 5,200 jobs (+2.2 percent) to an average of 240,100 in 2018, the second consecutive yearly increase. In 2018, durable goods manufacturing employment increased by 4,600 jobs, while nondurable goods manufacturing employment increased by 600 jobs.

Employment in **construction** increased by 3,900 jobs (+2.0 percent) to an average of 197,400 in 2018, the sixth consecutive yearly increase. However, 2018 average employment continued to remain below the 2006 average employment peak of 248,800. In 2018, job gains occurred in all sectors: specialty trade contractors (+2,100 jobs); construction of buildings (+1,200 jobs); and heavy and civil engineering construction (+500 jobs).

Growth in employment in the **leisure and hospitality** sector has continued to slow, increasing by 3,300 jobs (+0.8 percent) to an average of 407,800 in 2018. In 2018, employment in the accommodation and food services sector increased by 3,000 jobs, while employment in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector increased by 300 jobs.

Finance employment was up 2,300 jobs (+1.1 percent) in 2018 to an average of 207,400. Finance employment has continued to trend upward since the 2010 low of 179,100. Job gains in 2018 occurred in finance and insurance (+1,300 jobs) and in real estate (+1,000 jobs).

Employment in **miscellaneous** services increased by 300 jobs (+0.1 percent) to an average of 201,100 in 2018. Employment in miscellaneous services has continued to trend upward since the 2010 level of 184,700, but growth slowed substantially in 2017 and 2018. In 2018, the job gain in personal and laundry services (+600 jobs) outweighed the job losses in repair and maintenance (-400 jobs) and in membership associations and organizations (-100 jobs).

Trade and transportation employment decreased by 1,800 jobs (-0.3 percent) to an average of 659,700 in 2018, after increasing each of the previous seven years. Average employment continued to remain below the 2007 average employment peak of 667,600. In 2018, the job losses in retail trade (-3,700 jobs) and in wholesale trade (-400 jobs) outweighed the gain in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+2,300 jobs).

Employment in the **information** sector declined by 900 jobs (-1.3 percent) to an average of 67,200 in 2018. Information employment has been trending down since 2002.

Mining employment was down 100 jobs (-1.3 percent) to an average of 7,900 in 2018, after increasing by 100 jobs last year. In 2018, at 7,900, mining employment returned to its lowest level in the 1990-2018 historical time period.



Metropolitan Area Employment Changes

Virginia's ten metropolitan areas had a combined nonfarm employment gain of 48,500 jobs (+1.4 percent) in 2018. Combined metropolitan nonfarm employment averaged 3,551,800 in 2017 and 3,600,300 in 2018. All of the ten metropolitan areas experienced job gains in 2018. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area recorded the largest numerical increase (+26,800 jobs), and also experienced the largest percentage increase (+1.8 percent). Balance-of-state nonfarm employment decreased a net 3,700 jobs to an average of 400,300 in 2018 from an average of 404,000 in 2017.

Metropolitan Area Nonfarm Employment*

Industry	2018 Average	2017 Average	Change	
			Number	Percent
Virginia	4,000,600	3,955,800	+44,800	+1.1%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford	77,500	76,700	+800	+1.0%
Charlottesville	118,400	116,800	+1,600	+1.4%
Harrisonburg	68,100	67,500	+600	+0.9%
Lynchburg	105,000	104,300	+700	+0.7%
Northern Virginia	1,486,800	1,460,000	+26,800	+1.8%
Richmond	677,600	669,800	+7,800	+1.2%
Roanoke	161,400	160,500	+900	+0.6%
Staunton-Waynesboro	50,700	50,100	+600	+1.2%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina	790,500	782,600	+7,900	+1.0%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia	64,300	63,500	+800	+1.3%
Total for Ten Metropolitan Areas	3,600,300	3,551,800	+48,500	+1.4%
Remaining Balance-of-State Total	400,300	404,000	-3,700	-0.9%

*Totals may not add due to rounding.

- Northern Virginia** – up 26,800 jobs (+1.8 percent) to 1,486,800. Northern Virginia experienced both the largest absolute and percentage job gain among the metropolitan areas in 2018. Nine of the ten sectors in Northern Virginia posted job gains in 2018. Job gains occurred in professional and business services, up 12,300 jobs (+3.1 percent); private education and health services, up 4,400 jobs (+2.7 percent); total government, up 4,000 jobs (+1.7 percent); construction, up 2,400 jobs (+3.3 percent); leisure and hospitality, up 1,800 jobs (+1.2 percent); finance, up 1,500 jobs (+2.0 percent); trade and transportation, up 300 jobs (+0.1 percent); manufacturing, up 200 jobs (+0.8 percent); and miscellaneous services, up 100 jobs (+0.1 percent). The only job loss occurred in information, down 300 jobs (-0.8 percent).

- **Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina** – up 7,900 jobs (+1.0 percent) to 790,500. Six of the ten sectors experienced job gains, while the other four experienced job losses. The sectors posting job increases were professional and business services, up 4,800 jobs (+4.4 percent); manufacturing, up 3,600 jobs (+6.8 percent); private education and health services, up 1,400 jobs (+1.3 percent); finance, up 800 jobs (+2.1 percent); construction, up 400 jobs (+1.1 percent); and leisure and hospitality, up 300 jobs (+0.3 percent). The job losses occurred in trade and transportation, down 2,600 jobs (-1.9 percent); total government, down 600 jobs (-0.4 percent); information, down 400 jobs (-3.6 percent); and miscellaneous services, down 200 jobs (-0.6 percent).
- **Richmond** – up 7,800 jobs (+1.2 percent) to 677,600. Job gains occurred in eight of the ten sectors, while the other two experienced job losses. Job gains occurred in construction and finance, up 1,500 jobs each (+3.9 percent and +3.0 percent, respectively); trade and transportation, up 1,300 jobs (+1.1 percent); professional and business services, up 1,200 jobs (+1.0 percent); total government, up 1,000 jobs (+0.9 percent); private education and health services, up 900 jobs (+0.9 percent); leisure and hospitality, up 500 jobs (+0.8 percent); and miscellaneous services, up 100 jobs (+0.3 percent). Employment in information was down 200 jobs (-2.7 percent), while employment in manufacturing was down 100 jobs (-0.3 percent).
- **Charlottesville** – up 1,600 jobs (+1.4 percent) to 118,400. Six of the ten sectors experienced job gains; two experienced job losses; and employment remained unchanged in information and in professional and business services. The 2018 job gains were: total government, up 1,100 jobs (+3.1 percent); leisure and hospitality and miscellaneous services, up 200 jobs each (+1.4 percent and +3.4 percent, respectively); and 100 jobs each in construction, manufacturing, and finance (+1.7 percent, +2.6 percent, and +2.1 percent, respectively). Employment in private education and health services was down 200 jobs (-1.4 percent), while employment in trade and transportation was down 100 jobs (-0.7 percent).
- **Roanoke** – up 900 jobs (+0.6 percent) to 161,400. In 2018, four of the ten sectors experienced job gains; four experienced job losses; and employment in manufacturing and in finance remained unchanged. Job gains occurred in professional and business services, up 700 jobs (+3.2 percent); private education and health services, up 500 jobs (+1.8 percent); and total government and miscellaneous services, up 100 jobs each (+0.5 percent and +1.3 percent, respectively). Job losses occurred in trade and transportation, down 300 jobs (-0.9 percent); construction, down 200 jobs (-2.3 percent); and information and leisure and hospitality, down 100 jobs each (-7.1 percent and -0.7 percent, respectively).
- **Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford** – up 800 jobs (+1.0 percent) to 77,500. The goods-producing sector, which includes mining, construction, and manufacturing, was up a net 900 jobs (+6.7 percent). The service-providing industries were down a net 100 jobs (-0.2 percent), with a publishable gain of 100 jobs in total government (+0.4 percent).
- **Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia** – up 800 jobs (+1.3 percent) to 64,300. The service-providing industries had a net gain of 800 jobs (+1.5 percent), with a publishable gain of 100 jobs in total government (+1.0 percent) and a publishable loss of 100 jobs in trade and transportation (-0.8 percent). Goods-producing employment, which includes mining, construction, and manufacturing, had a net gain of 100 jobs (+1.0 percent).
- **Lynchburg** – up 700 jobs (+0.7 percent) to 105,000. Four of the ten sectors in Lynchburg posted job gains in 2018; two posted job losses; and four sectors were unchanged. Job gains occurred in private education and health services, up 600 jobs (+3.3 percent); leisure and hospitality, up 400 jobs (+4.0 percent); professional and business services, up 200 jobs (+1.8 percent); and finance, up 100 jobs (+2.1 percent). The job losses occurred in total government, down 300 jobs (-2.2 percent) and in trade and transportation, down 200 jobs (-1.0 percent). Employment was unchanged in construction, manufacturing, information, and miscellaneous services.

- **Harrisonburg** – up 600 jobs (+0.9 percent) to 68,100. The goods-producing sector, which includes mining, construction, and manufacturing, had a net gain of 400 jobs (+2.9 percent). The service-providing industries had a net gain of 100 jobs (+0.2 percent), with a publishable gain of 200 jobs in total government (+1.6 percent) and a publishable loss of 200 jobs in trade and transportation (-1.5 percent).
- **Staunton-Waynesboro** – up 600 jobs (+1.2 percent) to 50,700. The service-providing industries were up a net 400 jobs (+1.0 percent). The goods-producing sector, which includes mining, construction, and manufacturing, was up a net 200 jobs (+2.0 percent).

Unemployment

Virginia's unemployment rate fell for the eighth consecutive year to an average of 3.0 percent in 2018, down from an average of 3.7 percent in 2017. The average unemployment rate for Virginia peaked at 7.1 percent in 2010. The U.S. average unemployment rate for 2018 was 3.9 percent, down from 4.4 percent in 2017. The number of unemployed workers in Virginia averaged 128,579 in 2018, down from the 2017 average of 159,456. The state's civilian labor force averaged 4,331,380 in 2018, up from 4,309,588 in 2017.

Annual average comparisons of all the states show that Virginia, as well as South Dakota and Wisconsin, was ranked ninth, with an average unemployment rate of 3.0 percent in 2018. Hawaii, with a 2.4 percent average, had the lowest rate. The other states with lower unemployment averages than Virginia were: Iowa and New Hampshire, 2.5 percent; North Dakota, 2.6 percent; Vermont, 2.7 percent; Idaho and Nebraska, 2.8 percent; and Minnesota, 2.9 percent.

